Urban Vulnerability to Climate Change: A system dynamics analysis.

Tim Lant, Ph.D.

Research Director

The Decision Theater at Arizona State University

Lant@asu.edu

NASA Ames Research Center Workshop on Sustainable Urban Development Jan 9-10, 2009



Collaborators:

- Funded through NSF Coupled Natural and Human Systems program
- Award period: Oct. 2008 Feb. 2012
- Collaborators:

Sharon Harlan (PI): Sociology; Susanne Grossman-Clarke (Co-PI): Climate Modeling; Will Stefanov (Co-PI): Remote Sensing; Chris Martin (Co-PI): Landscape Ecology; Tim Lant (Co-PI): Mathematics/Decision

Theater/GIOS.





First, we celebrated.





Extreme Heat and Health

- Exposure to excessively warm weather threatens human health in all types of climate regimes.
- ☐ Heat kills and sickens multitudes of people around the globe every year directly and indirectly.
- ☐ Climate change, coupled with urban development, will impact human health.
- □ Phoenix is an ideal laboratory for studying urban heat islands under extreme climate conditions.
- □ Social factors are critical in vulnerability analysis.



Cities, Neighborhoods, Climate Vulnerability

□ Landscapes denuded of vegetation in poor neighborhoods expose residents to the elements.





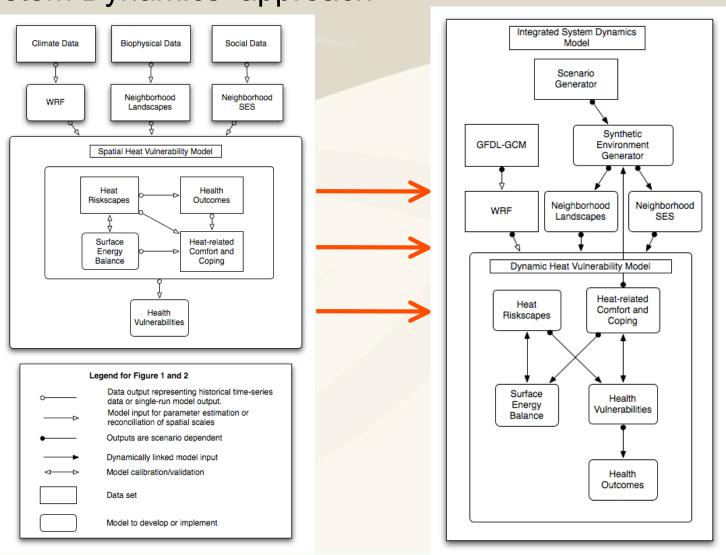


Research Questions

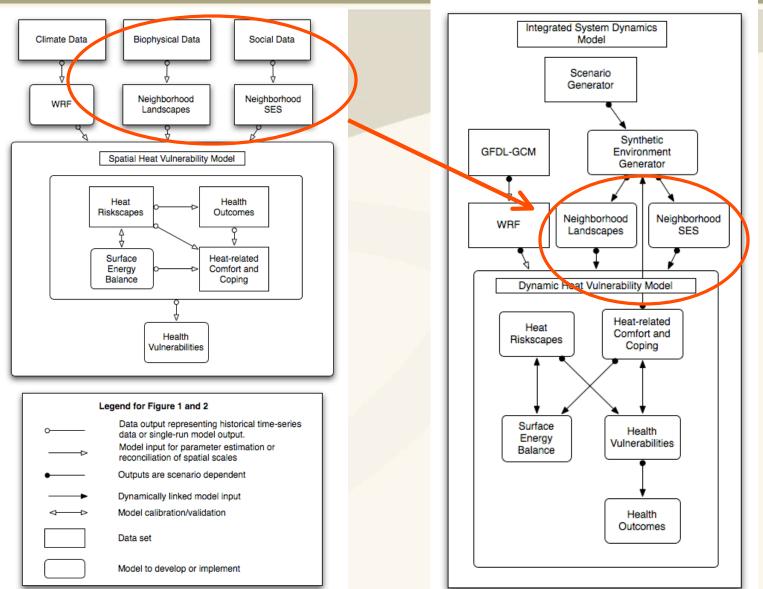
- 1) How does the spatial structure of heat "riskscapes" change through time and how are "riskscapes" related to changes in urban landscape cover characteristics, seasonal variations in local climate, global climate, and residential segregation?
- 2) How have residentially segregated neighborhoods, increasing environmental and social inequalities, and heterogeneous heat "riskscapes" rendered low-income and racial/ethnic minority populations disproportionately vulnerable to heat-related health hazards?
- 3) How will heat-related health vulnerabilities be distributed across particular places and population subgroups in the future?



System Dynamics approach







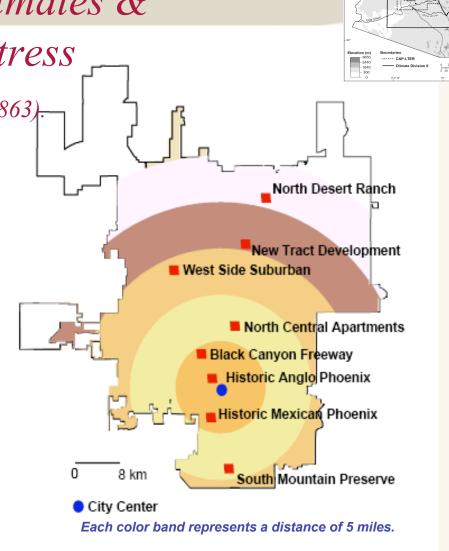


Neighborhood Microclimates & Vulnerability to Heat Stress ___

(Social Science & Medicine 63: 2847-2863)

2000 Census block groups colocated with CAP LTER ecological monitoring sites. Selected for variation in income, ethnicity, location, and landscape.

- Lower, middle, and higher-income
- Located in the urban core, suburbs and fringe
- Age of housing and landscape types vary



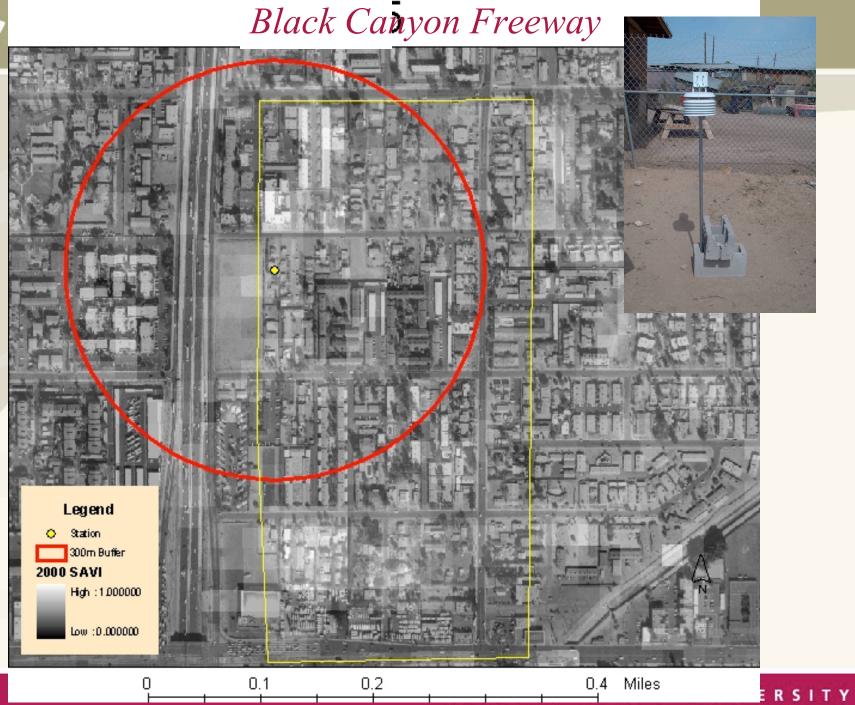


Demographic Characteristics by Exposure Intensity Class of Neighborhoods

US Census	Low	Medium	High
N Neighborhoods	15	10	15
Size			
Population per sq mi	3,569	3,757	7,550
Income			
Household income	\$71,903	\$62,669	\$38,621
Ethnicity			
% minority	20.7	25.9	44.7
Age			
% ages 65 and over	9.8	20.4	17.5

Census Block Group (2000)

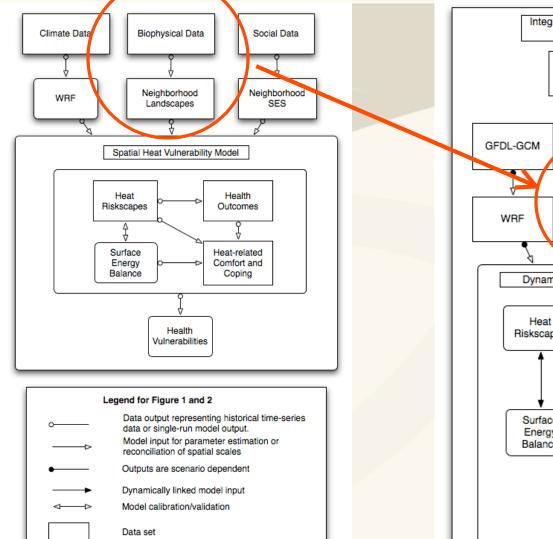




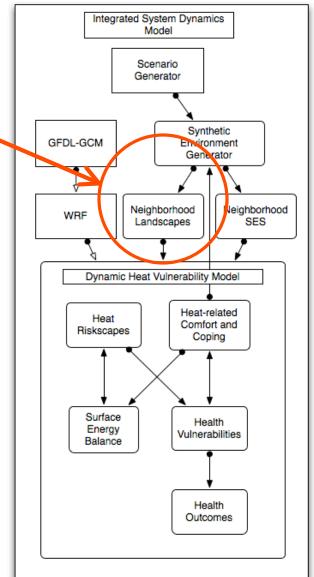
GLOBAL INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABILITY Neighborhood Conditions, 2003 Heat Wave (July 12-16), 5:00 pm

Neighborhood	Mean (sd) Air Temp	Mean (sd) Human Thermal Comfort Index	Increase in HTCI During HW	Pct Summer 2003 Hours => 200 HTCI
Historic Anglo Phoenix	40.2 (3.1) 104F	186 (35)	28	4.2
North Desert Ranch	43.3 (2.7)	215 (37)	49	5.9
West Side Suburban	43.7 (2.7)	220 (37)	45	11.0
South Mountain Preserve	44.4 (2.6)	226 (35)	50	15.9
North Central Apartments	44.5 (3.1)	226 (44)	48	18.4
Historic Mexican Phoenix	45.6 (2.9)	245 (37)	49	14.8
New Tract Development	45.5 (3.1)	238 (44)	45	22.2
Black Canyon Freeway	47.7 (3.4) 118F	259 (42)	62	19.8
Mean: All	44.4 (2.3)	227 (28)	47	14.0
Difference: highest - lowest	7.5	73	44	18.0
ANOVA	F=22.98***	F=5.94***	ARIZ	ONA STA





Model to develop or implement

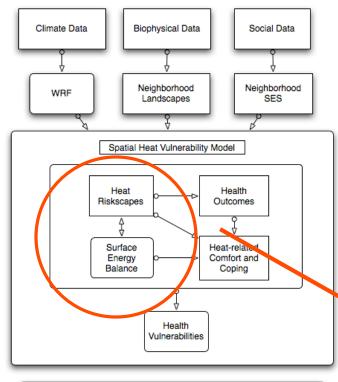


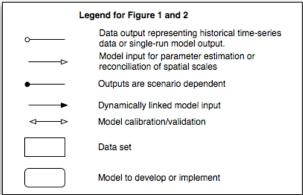


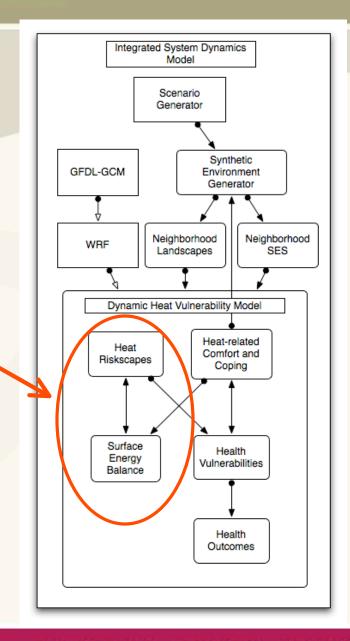
Surface Temperature Measurement using MASTER airborne sensor 77.1 64.2 51.4 38.5 HC1 25.7 12.8 0.7 km Left - MASTER surface T; Right - 3 m/pixel digital aerial orthophotography NSF Urban Climate Grant Team Meeting, ASU, 9/26/08

Credit: Will Stefanov











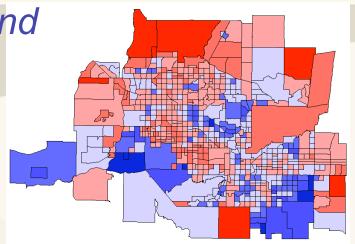
Regional Societal, Vegetation, and Climate Relationships

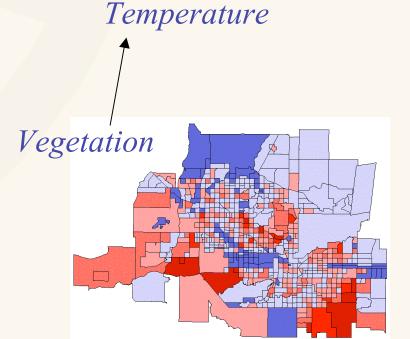
How is urban warming associated with vegetation?



Increasing Variable



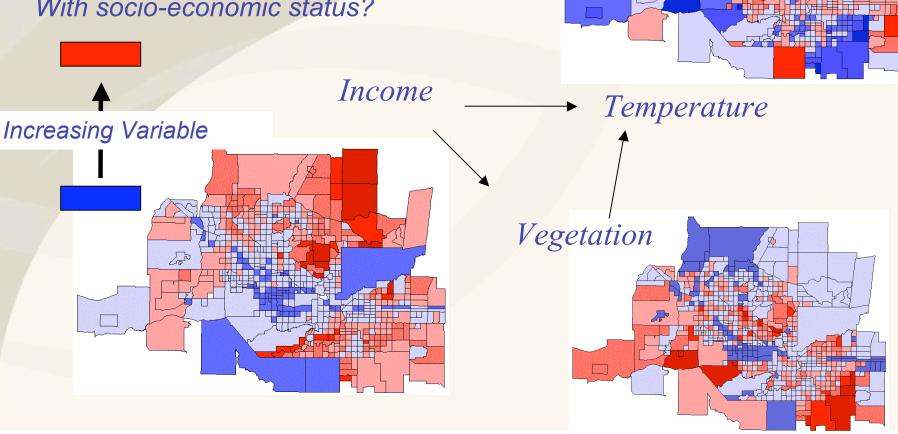




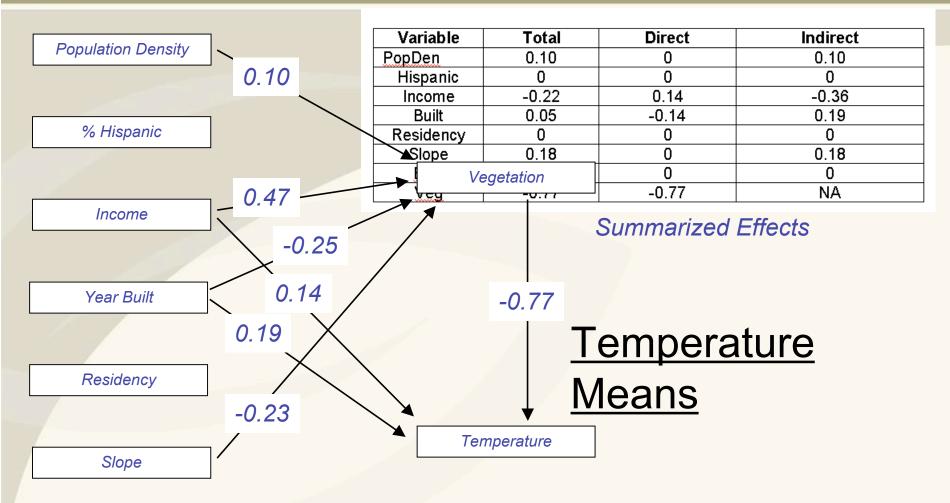


Regional Societal, Vegetation, and Climate Relationships

How are warming and vegetation associated With socio-economic status?







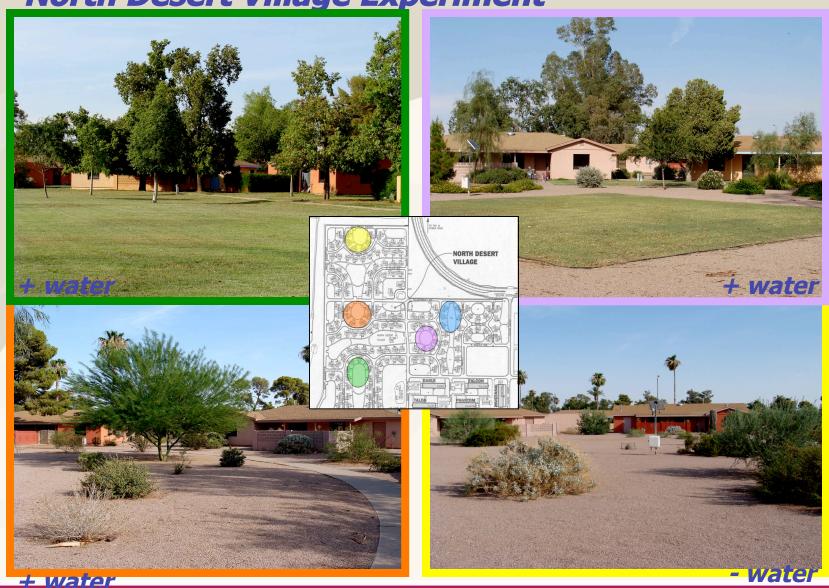
Resulting Path Diagram with Beta values shown (p<0.05)

Elevation

Jenerette, G.D., S.L. Harlan, A. Brazel, N. Jones, L. Larsen, and W.L. Stefanov. 2007. Regional relationships between vegetation, surface temperature, and human settlement in a rapidly urbanizing ecosystem. Landscape Ecology 22:353-365.

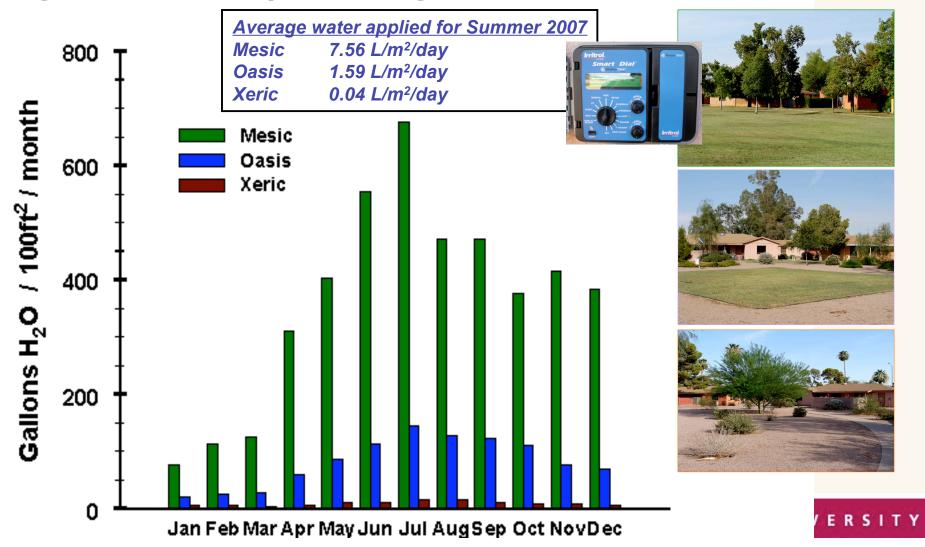


North Desert Village Experiment

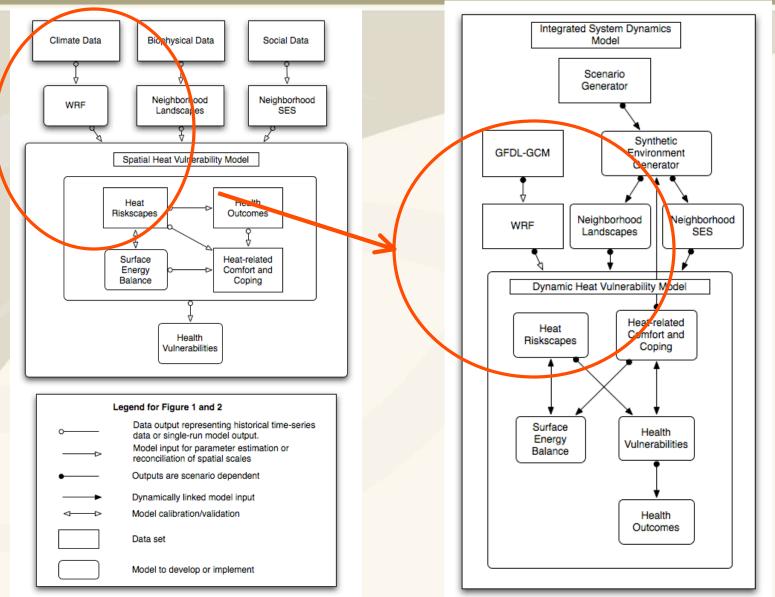




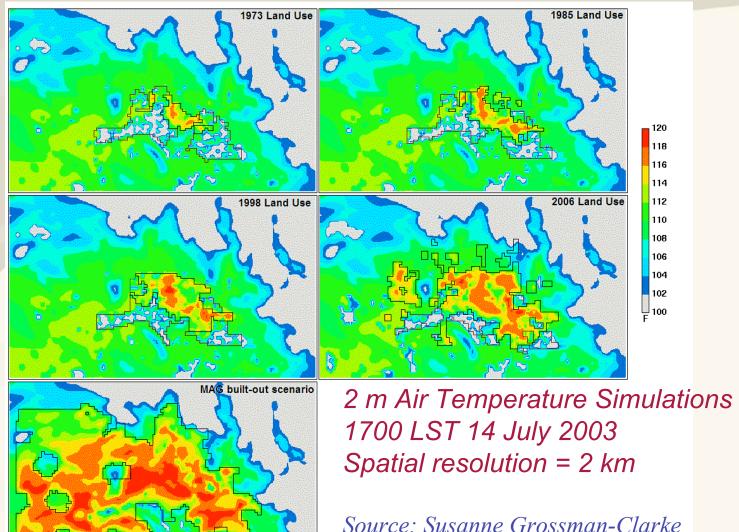
Monthly landscape water use at ASU experimental plots, 2007. Irrigation controlled by SMART irrigation controllers.



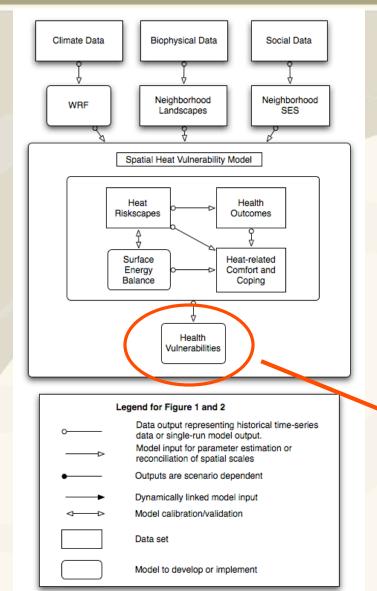


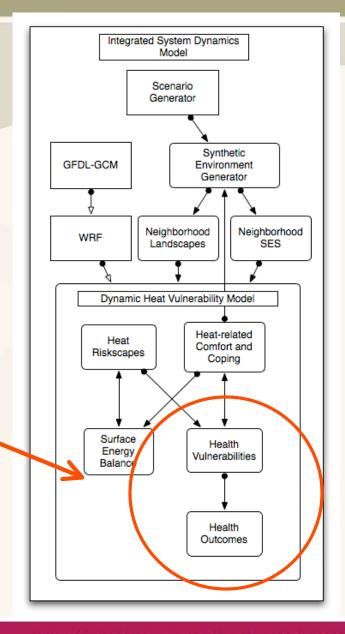


GLOBAL INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABILITY Expanding Phoenix Heat Island





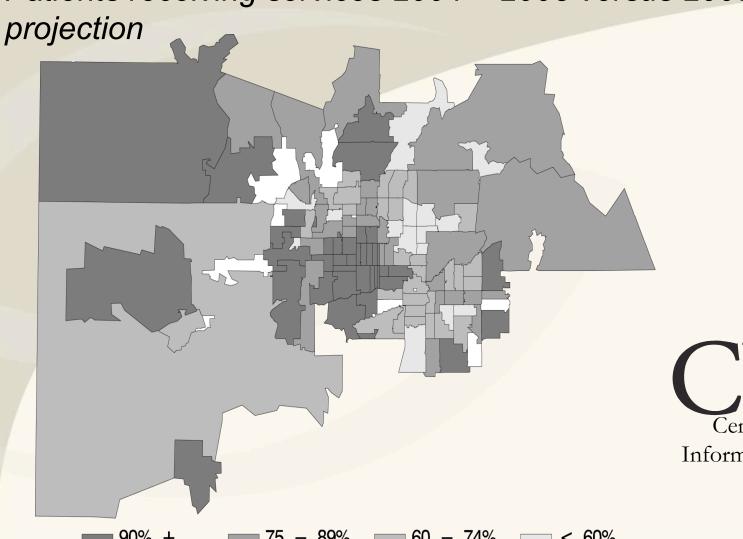






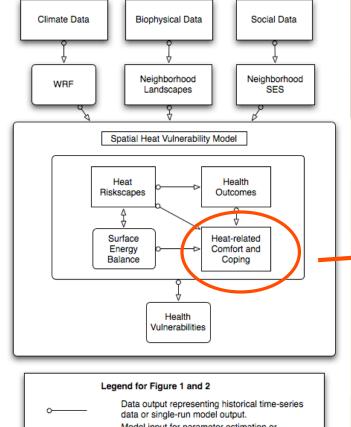
Percent of Maricopa County in AZHQ

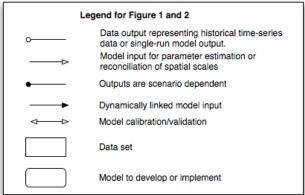
Patients receiving services 2004 – 2008 versus 2007 Census

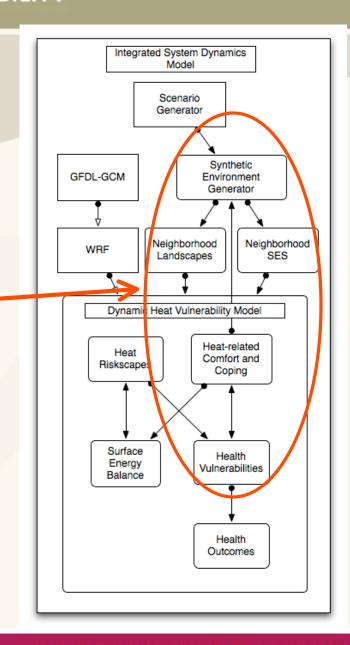








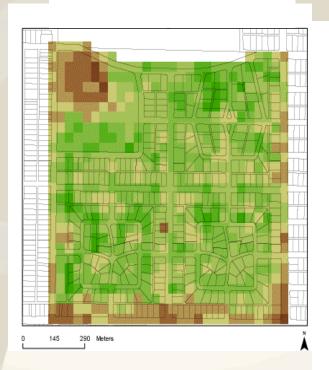




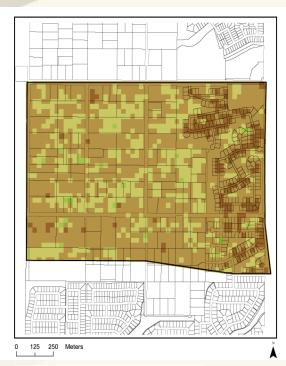
Comparison of Vegetation Index in

3 Neighborhoods

Historic Anglo Phoenix



North Desert Ranch



Black Canyon Freeway



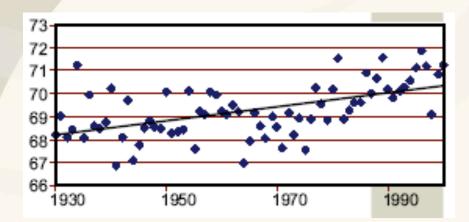
SAVI Derived from 2000 Landsat

0.50 - 0.54 0.55 - 0.59 0.40 - 0.44 0.60 - 0.64 0.40 - 0.44 0.65 - 0.69 0.45 - 0.49 0.70 - 0.74

Perceptions of Climate Change (in preparation)

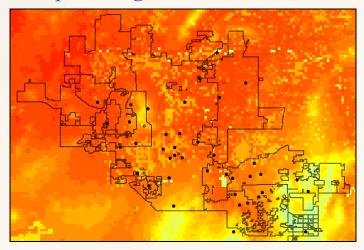
- Public opinion polls indicate Americans report a high level of awareness to global climate change
- Examine variable temperature conditions and perceived risk to climate change at two spatial scales

Temp in Valley Over Time



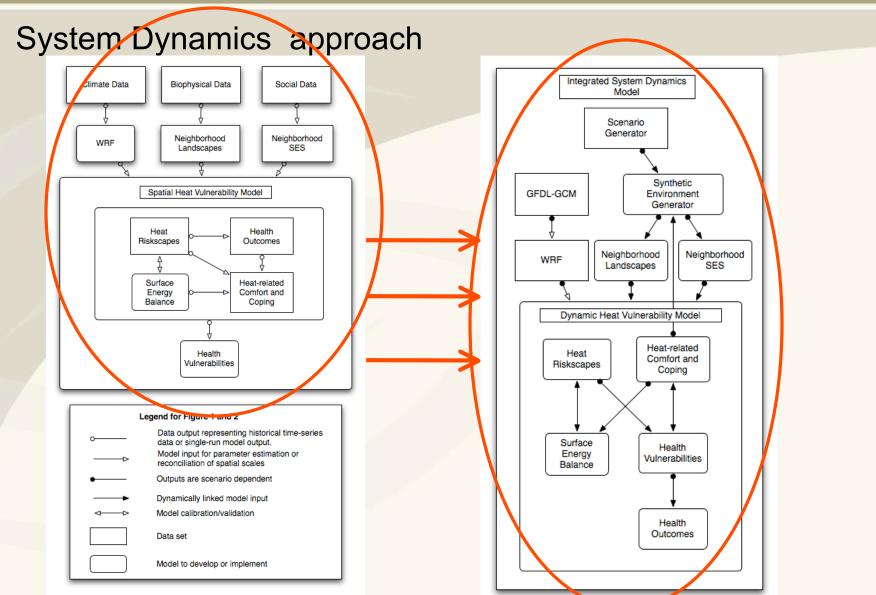
Source: Brazel et al. 2002

Temp in Neighborhood



Grossman-Clarke:

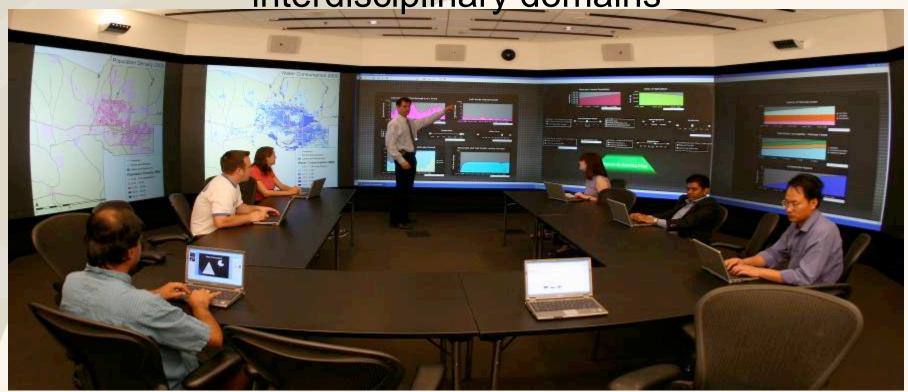






The Decision Theater – Platform for visualization, modeling, and collaboration in complex,





Decision Center for a Desert City, WaterSim.

Some of WaterSim's many user-adjustable variables

W E T

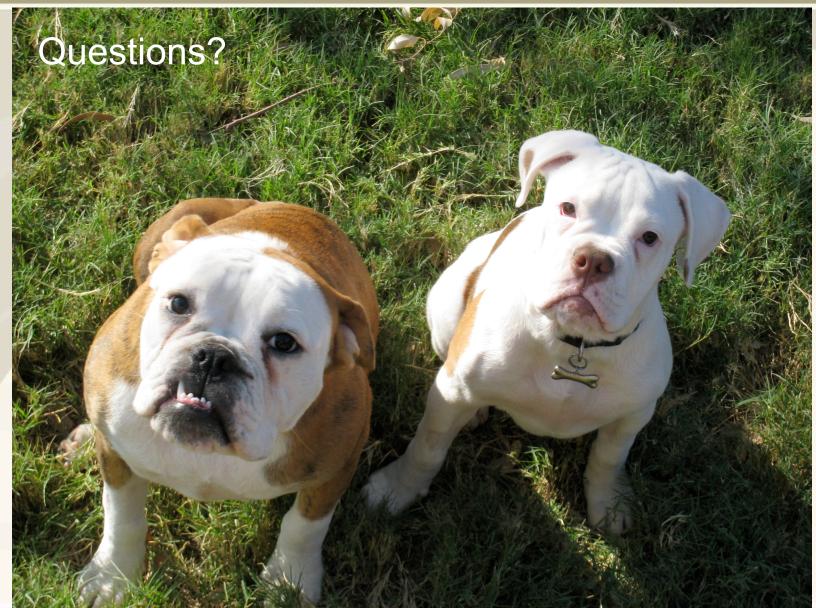
D R Y

> Colorado River Supply

Salt-Verde River Supply Land Use & Water sources Water Uses Population & Groundwater & Demand

Slider bars on graphs allow alternate futures to be assessed in real time







Minerva is a GIS-based Virtual Reality application developed at ASU



Color-coding used to show students from different schools within a district can similarly depict species distributions

WaterSim, a decision-making tool for DCDC

- WaterSim is a graphical programming tool developed for DCDC, which lets groups of individuals (experts or lay) explore alternative future scenarios for water needs in Central Arizona using the Decision Theater
- WaterSim links dozens of viewer-adjustable variables including future projections of water supply, results of regionalized global climate models, water policies and prices, population projections, and land use options
- The flow chart below shows how WaterSim can link different models

